



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/991,902	11/26/2001	Kiichiro Sakamoto	Q66497	7533

7590

03/21/2006

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

DUNHAM, JASON B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3625

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/991,902	SAKAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason B. Dunham	3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Davis (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0001846).

Referring to claim 1. Davis discloses a method of offering a commemorative image on viewing of moving images, comprising the steps of:

- Allowing a customer who is viewing moving images to designate an image of a desired scene out of the moving images and also allowing the customer to place an order for said image of the thus designated scene as accompanied by orderer information which specifies said customer (Davis: abstract, paragraph 190);
- Picking up first digital image data from video signals for said moving images in response to the designation of said desired scene, said first digital image data corresponding to the image of said designated scene (Davis: abstract);
- Creating the commemorative image, using the picked up first digital image data, that is commemorative of the viewing of the moving images and reproduces the image of said designated scene (abstract); and

- Delivering the created commemorative image to said customer after checking it against said orderer information (Davis: abstract, paragraph 190).

Referring to claim 2. Davis further discloses a method comprising the steps of:

- Storing in a specified memory said first digital image data as picked up from the video signals for said moving images (Davis: paragraph 22);
- Reading said stored first digital image data out of said specified memory (Davis: paragraph 24); and
- Said commemorative image being created using said first digital image data as read out of said specified memory (Davis: paragraph 24).

Referring to claim 3. Davis further discloses a method wherein said commemorative image is created as second digital image data from said first digital image data, and output as a print or prints of the moving images that reproduces said commemorative image from said second digital image data or output as a recording medium or media having said second digital image recorded thereto or created as distribution data from said second digital image data which is to be distributed via a communication network (Davis: paragraphs 22 & 46).

Referring to claim 4. Claim 4 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above.

Referring to claim 5. Davis further discloses a method wherein said commemorative image is delivered to said customer in accordance with an image delivery method designated by said customer (Davis: paragraph 215).

Referring to claim 6. Davis further discloses a method wherein image delivery information that designates said image delivery method is sent with said orderer information when the order for the image of said designated scene is placed by said customer (Davis: paragraph 88-89).

Referring to claim 7. Davis further discloses a method wherein said commemorative image is created as a collection of images of a plurality of designated scenes (Davis: paragraph 215-216).

Referring to claim 8. Davis further discloses a method wherein said collection is an album prepared in a specified format using a plurality of prints of moving images that reproduce said plurality of designated scenes (Davis: paragraphs 207 & 214).

Referring to claim 9. Claim 9 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above.

Referring to claim 10. Davis further discloses a method wherein said first digital image data is composited with an image already prepared by said customer to create said commemorative image (Davis: paragraphs 56 & 206).

Referring to claim 11. Davis further discloses a method wherein said first digital image data for images of designated scenes by said customer are stored in said memory, said first digital image data are read out of said memory and displayed on a monitor, and the image of said designated scene by said customer, for which the order is finally to be placed by the customer is chosen from the thus displayed images of designated scenes by said customer on the monitor (Davis: paragraphs 92-93).

Referring to claim 12. Davis further discloses a method wherein said first digital image data for the images of scenes within a specified time range including not only the image of said designated scene out of said moving images which has been designated by said customer but also images both before and after said image are stored in said memory, said first digital image data are displayed on a monitor, and the image of said designated scene by said customer, for which the order is finally to be placed by the customer is designated from the thus displayed images of the scenes within said specified time range on the monitor (Davis: paragraph 72).

Referring to claim 13. Claim 13 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above. The examiner notes that applicant discloses in paragraph 114 the fifth embodiment being essentially as the first embodiment with the exception of "picking the closest scene" to the designated scene. It is unclear what is intended by the term "closest", however it was taken to mean the nearest to the designated scene timewise. Dave discloses a method wherein images immediately surrounding the designated scene in sequential order are selected (Davis: paragraphs 197-198).

Referring to claim 14. Davis further discloses a method wherein statistics are taken of frequency of said designation of the desired scene and prior to designation of the desired scene by said customer, a commemorative image is made available for each of the images of frequently designated scenes (Davis: paragraphs 265-267).

Referring to claim 15. Davis further discloses a method wherein a biological reaction occurring in said customer is utilized to designate the image of said desired scene (Davis: paragraph 196)

Referring to claim 16. Davis further discloses a method wherein said biological reaction is the movement and attitude of eyeballs of said customer (Davis: paragraph 150).

Referring to claims 17-31. Claims 17-31 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Hsu (U.S. Patent No. 6,295,058) discloses a system and method allowing the user to create customized greeting cards from video clips.
- Slater (U.S. Patent No. 6,483,570) discloses a system and method of processing customer image orders, each of at least one image capturing an original scene.
- Narushima (U.S. Patent No. 6,870,571) discloses a system and method for printing video data.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason B. Dunham whose telephone number is 571-272-8109. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on 571-272-7159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JBD
Patent Examiner
3/9/06